



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: June 10, 2004

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chairperson Phil Worby (QC Labs) called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. It was discussed that for the future a draft version of the minutes will be circulated and any corrections to the minutes will be posted in a final version of the minutes. The motion was made to approve the minutes with the requested corrections and the motion was seconded.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that both Laboratory certificates and ACPL's for FY2005 have a release date of June 16, 2004. Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) stated that OQA has plans to spot check labs for compliance with corrective actions from audits conducted within the last year and a half. The labs would be given one day's notice. Ms. Boros-Russo asked if any labs or committee group members would be interested in auditing OQA. Corrective actions to the most recent NELAP audit of OQA would be shared with the group. The office will soon be audited by EPA region 2.

Betty Jane Boros-Russo announced for Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) that for the B.E.A.C.H. Monitoring Program the only approved method for Enterococcus is the 24-hour EPA method 1600. The 48-hour method is not approved for private and public beach testing.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the PT samples for the SHW testing were due on June 10th. Ms. Werner (NJDEP-OQA) warned labs not to miss the posted deadline. The office will no longer accept results posted after the deadline as they have in the past.

Ms. Werner has received many phone calls concerning difficulty with electronic reporting to ERA. Harvey Klein (GSL) stated that when entering SHW data there were no method numbers to select. It was stated that for ERA electronic reporting there were no NJDEP parameter codes on the data reporting spreadsheet. Madhuri Dave (STL) asked if the office is going to stop using the NJDEP parameter codes. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that these codes are necessary. There is no database for auto-comparison of methods. The Accrediting Authority's are trying to eliminate the problem by coordinating the method codes.

SPEX samples for aqueous DRO's and GRO's should be in labs by June 24th. TCLP samples ship Monday June 14th and are due July 28th. A letter went out Thursday, June 10th ahead of the samples. Stu Nagourney, Rachel Werner, Bob Royce and Paula Blaze observed SPEX prepare the TCLP samples on Wednesday, June 9th and are satisfied with their stability in that they were analyzed 12-13 times. Ms Werner says labs should call SPEX

directly if there are any problems with these samples and that there will be no extra volumes sent out. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that OQA is not enforcing TCLP metals results and no suspensions will be issued for unacceptable results. The testing is being done for information purposes only.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if this was the first time the TCLP metals were tested from a solid sample and whether any other states had accomplished this testing. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) said that this is the first time and that California also has a TCLP extraction test.

Madhuri Dave (STL) stated that her lab received three letters from APG about the December PT study. In the third letter all the acceptance limits for parameters were changed with no explanation. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that APG evaluated twenty-one labs against VHS data instead of using the NIST limits. She was aware of two reports sent out from APG. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that all issues with providers should be brought to the attention of Lara Autry (Executive Director of NELAP). Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that APG must respond to all written complaints within thirty days and that the laboratory will be sent a copy of the response.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked how many other states use state approved vendors such as NJ uses. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that she knew of California and Florida. Mr. Klein asked whether ELAC should advise the NJDEP on whether state approved vendors are a good idea. Ms. Werner indicated that the state approved PT contract is necessary to help smaller laboratories maintain their certifications. Larger laboratories are not as problematic. Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the program is geared in part to make sure all labs perform the required testing and that labs that do not want to use the state approved vendor could use the waiver option. Ms. Werner (NJDEP-OQA) indicated that petitions to use outside PT vendors have declined from 40 to 16 labs. Harvey Klein (GSL) asked whether New York is an accepted vendor. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated NYDOH is not an accepted vendor because of its refusal to submit VHS data. Phil Worby (QC labs) asked why NYDOH refuses to submit the VHS data. Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the NYDOH's position is that they review the data and that New Jersey does not need to review the data that has been approved by NIST.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the June WP samples from APG have been shipped. She stated that ERA will ship their samples next week. Please use the fax form to notify her of any problems. Ms. Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that if your lab was late with its payment then the samples will not be ordered until every other lab has their samples. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that labs have 72 hours from the ship date (June 11, 2004) to obtain more samples at no additional cost and that you must inspect the samples that you receive. At this time she has had only three reports of broken vials. During the last study there was a problem with the shipping agency.

Joe Elson (Montgomery Twp) reported that he received an email on June 1st regarding an impending shipment of PT samples from APG but that the FEDEX ship date was May 28th. Ms. Werner stated that APG has been asked not to ship over a holiday weekend to avoid problems.

Ms. Werner reports that starting July 1st with the DW study, PT samples will not be shipped unless payment has been received. She also reports that ASI (West Virginia) was removed from the PT vendor list as of April 1, 2004 during the second round of NIST audits.

NELAC Update: Betty Jane Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA) indicated that there is a NELAC meeting at the end of August in Charleston, SC. This meeting will have a different format than previous meetings and will consist of consecutive meetings of NELAC, ELAB and INELA. A preliminary schedule has been posted on the NELAC website. Madhuri Dave (STL) states that NELAC's new website is up but appears not to be complete.

Bioassay: No report

By-Laws: No report

Communications and OQA Website: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that the website bulletin board is updated regularly at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/bboard.html> and all is going well. Ms. Werner (NJDEP-OQA) advises labs to check the bulletin board weekly. Copies of letters and notifications will be posted on the website.

Tom Greci (ECM) had no further report for communications.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water/PWTA: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) states that the Drinking Water Round Table will probably be scheduled for August – September and that the Electronic Data Deliverables will not be ready until this winter. The data management group has informed her that the state input forms for SDWS will be updated and the changes should be introduced at the roundtable. Discussion at the roundtable should include Byproduct Disinfection rules, electronic deliverables and the new reporting forms. Letters for the Disinfection Byproduct rules were not out by June 10th but should be sent out by the end of the week.

Ms. Bonnette stated that Pat Bono has not received answers yet from her questions about the GPS data. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) also announced Sandi Krietzman's promotion on June 28th to the Air Quality Planning Bureau Chief.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked which chlorine test (free or total) should be used when sampling under the Disinfection Byproduct Rules for THMs.

Site Remediation: It was indicated by OQA that Triad was progressing.

New Business

B.E.A.C.H. Program: The certified lab contact for the Enterococcus EPA method 1600 is Deb Waller at deb.waller@dep.state.nj.us. The monitoring and B.E.A.C.H. contact for this program is Virginia Loftin at virginia.loftin@dep.state.nj.us

Meeting Topics: Phil Worby encourages individuals with ideas for extra meeting topics to send him the information by email. He will try to make the arrangements.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM on August 12, 2004 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

NJDEP Notice: The DEP has revised current building security procedures to reflect actions that must be taken by employees and visitors at all times, as determined by the Domestic Preparedness Task Force. The change below will be implemented immediately:

All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.